

## May 2012 at BFI Southbank



### Magnetic French star Jean Gabin

## The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp in restored Technicolor glory The complete Vincente Minnelli, Part Two

#### Seasons:

- Jean Gabin: Working Class Hero to Godfather**  
This month BFI Southbank offers a career overview of one of the most renowned stars of French cinema, including screenings of an extraordinary run of masterpieces *Pépé le Moko* (Dir, Julien Duvivier, 1937), *La Bête humaine* (Dir, Jean Renoir, 1938) and *Le Jour se lève* (Dir, Marcel Carné, 1939)
- Extended Run: Le Quai des brumes** (Dir, Marcel Carné, 1939) **NEW PRINT 4 – 31 May**  
A marvellously moody crime thriller of the pre-war years, **Marcel Carné's** newly restored classic of 'poetic realism' gave **Jean Gabin** one of his most memorably iconic roles as an army deserter on the run
- Extended Run: The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp**  
(Dir, Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, 1943) **NEW PRINT 18 – 31 May**  
**Powell** and **Pressburger's** much-lauded satire of the English character has now been restored to its full Technicolor glory by the Academy Film Archive in association with the BFI, ITV Studios Global Entertainment Ltd, and The Film Foundation.
- Vincente Minnelli, Part Two**  
The second part of Minnelli's complete retrospective continues this month looking at his later films some of which explore a darker side of life including the psychological drama *The Cobweb* (1955) and **Kirk Douglas** as Vincent van Gogh in the biopic *Lust for Life* (1956).
- Sci-Fi London**  
Sci-Fi London continues for its 11<sup>th</sup> year at BFI Southbank, and has a galactic selection of features, shorts and documentaries including the world premiere of *True Love* (Dir, Enrico

Clerico Nasino, 2012) and provocative documentary **The Mechanical Bride** (Dir, Allison de Fren, 2012).

- **Peter Terson: The Artisan Playwright**

Peter Terson wrote some of the mostly deeply human and controversial dramas of the 60s and 70s. This season explores the range of Terson's TV adaptations of his plays including Play for Today dramas **The Fishing Party** (BBC, 1972) and **Shakespeare or Bust** (BBC, 1973)

### **Featured Events:**

Highlights from our events calendar include:

- A Gala premiere of **All in Good Time** (Dir, Nigel Cole, 2012) on **Tue 8 May + Q&A with cast and crew**, based on Ayub Khan Din's (*East is East*) popular play *Rasta Rasta*; and a preview of **Café de Flore** (Dir, Jean-Marc Vallée, 2011), a powerful and unconventional love story starring Vanessa Paradis on **Wed 9 May**.
- Part of a new BBC2 TV series, **Faster, Higher, Stronger: The Ultimate Race** is a documentary about the story of the 1500m race – the Blue Riband event of any Olympics and features interviews with Olympic 1500m champions Sebastian Coe, Peter Rono and Herb Elliot. There will be an onstage discussion with the filmmakers and some of Britain's past Olympians on **Mon 14 May**.
- During the 1940s, the British Council commissioned a series of documentary films to promote the idea of Britain and 'Britishness'. Preserved by the BFI National Archive, these films are unveiled again on **Thu 3 May** in **Who Were We? The British Council Film Collection Revealed**.
- **The Flipside** presents a rare screening of dystopian cyberpunk romp **Battletruck aka Warlords of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** (1981) by director Harley Cokeliss who will be in attendance for a Q&A session after the screening on **Wed 30 May**.
- **Film Funday** presents a preview of **Tales of the Night in 3D (Les Contes de la Nuit)**, directed by **Michel Ocelot**, the master of contemporary French animated cinema on **Sun 13 May**. A Funday workshop precedes the screening giving an opportunity to learn and create silhouette animation.

### **Seasons at BFI Southbank:**

#### **Jean Gabin: Working Class Hero to Godfather**

**Jean Gabin** was the most popular French matinee idol of the pre-war period and remains one of the great icons of cinema. This season gives a complete overview of his career from his early films as the tragic working class hero in the 1930s with such classics as **Le Jour se lève** (Dir, Marcel Carné, 1939); **La Grande Illusion** (Dir, Jean Renoir, 1937) and **La Bandera** (Dir, Julien Duvivier) to a brief sojourn in Hollywood during the war with **Moontide** (Dir, Archie Mayo, 1942) and a high-profile liaison with Marlene Dietrich. By the early 1950s, it looked as if Gabin's era had passed. But then **Touchez-pas au grisbi** (Dir, Jacques Becker, 1954) and **Razzia sur la chnouf** (Dir, Henri Decoin, 1955) re-launched his box-office potential with roles as bourgeois criminal Godfathers after the war. He continued playing charismatic and world-weary (God)father figures in a string of melodramas and gangster flicks until his death in 1976. An added highlight of this season is the extended run of a newly restored print of a classic of 'poetic realism' **Le Quis des brumes** (Dir, Marcel Carné, 1938).

### **Extended Run: *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* from 18 – 31 May**

**Powell** and **Pressburger's** much-lauded satire of the English character has now been restored to its full Technicolor glory by the Academy Film Archive in association with the BFI, ITV StudiosGlobal Entertainment Ltd., and The Film Foundation. Martin Scorsese and film editor and Powell's widow Thelma Schoonmaker Powell have overseen the project since it began in 2008. Based on the satirical cartoon character created by David Low, the film charts the life and loves of one extraordinary man, Major General Clive Wynne-Candy. It's a wondrously witty yet surprisingly sympathetic critical portrait of a man who in his prime was a dashing and daring young officer but became a stuffy and tradition-bound Home Guard 'Blimp'.

### **Vincente Minnelli, Part Two**

Part Two of this complete retrospective showcases Minnelli's later films including the musicals **Brigadoon** (1954), **Kismet** (1955) and **Gigi** (1958), the latter earning Minnelli his only **Oscar**, despite many of his films and actors winning Academy Awards. Amidst the gaiety and glamour of such song and dance, Minnelli also explored a darker side of life with the psychological drama **The Cobweb** (1955), which provided Gloria Grahame with an Oscar. **Lust for Life** (1956) followed, starring Kirk Douglas as Vincent van Gogh and male tensions rise to violence in **Home from the Hill** (1960). As the popularity of musicals waned, Minnelli maintained his levels of perfectionism in more beautifully crafted melodramas and comedies; from the epic family tale of **The 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse** (1962), set in Nazi-occupied Paris, and the gender-swapping **Goodbye Charlie** (1964), when **Tony Curtis** is reincarnated as **Debbie Reynolds**, to **The Sandpiper** (1965) – a vehicle for **Elizabeth Taylor** and **Richard Burton** – and his last film **A Matter of Time** (1976), when his daughter, **Liza Minnelli**, was cast alongside **Ingrid Bergman**. Such later films exemplify the arc of talent and topic that Vincente Minnelli could turn his hand to. He was a true master at bringing a sense of depth and vitality into moving image, lighting up the screen as he did so.

### **Sci-Fi London**

The festival holds its 11<sup>th</sup> edition at BFI Southbank and Apollo Piccadilly from 1 – 7 May. Heralding the selection of fantastic features, shorts and documentaries at the BFI, Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> will see the annual **SCI-FI LONDON Fantastic Costume Parade** bring a collection of the finest movie-and TV-related costumes to the venue. The festival will screen the world premiere of **True Love** (Dir, Enrico Clerico Nasino, 2012) written by **'Fabio & Fabio'** (Fabio Guaglione and Fabio Resinaro) the writer-director team behind the hit sci-fi short **Afterville**; and a preview of documentary of **Sense of Scale** (Dir, Berton Pierce, 2011) about VFX artists and model-makers for films. Provocative documentary **The Mechanical Bride** (Dir, Allison de Fren, 2012) about state of the art artificial companionships and narrated by screen icon Julie Newmar (*Catwoman* in the Batman TV series) will precede a preview of period Sci-fi drama **Dimensions** (Dir, Sloan U'Ren, 2011) on 5 May.

Additional events are **Great Writers in Short Form**, a selection of science-fiction short films, based on short stories by some of the world's great science fiction authors including George Orwell and Kurt Vonnegut; and **Music Video Shorts** a new addition to the festival which highlights music videos with a sci-fi and fantasy theme displaying a real mix of style in both music and technique.

### **Peter Terson: The Artisan Playwright**

Peter Terson is said to belong to the same group of working-class playwrights as Colin Welland or Alan Plater, yet there is a darker psychological strain to his work that sometimes showed an affinity with the work of Pinter. Terson represented the working-class culture of industrial England of the 1960s and 70s, and had an unparalleled ear for naturalistic dialogue and trademark earthy, honest humour shone throughout his plays. He wrote one of the definitive plays about football culture, **Zigger Zagger** (1967) during a long and fruitful collaboration with the National Youth Theatre.

This season celebrates his work with a selection of TV adaptations commissioned by the BBC and Granada in the early 70s. Within a period of just four years, they range from dark, psychological explorations of the father-son power struggle in plays such as **Lost Yer Tongue** (Granada 1975) and **But Fred, Freud is Dead** (Granada 1973), to the Pinteresque power games of **Dancing in the Dark** (Granada 1972) and **The Samaritan** (Granada 1972) and the humour and a cute observation of **The Fishing Party** (BBC 1972) and **Shakespeare or Bust** (BBC 1973) & **Three for the Fancy** (BBC 1974) which both continued the adventures of The Fishing Party trio, Art, Ern and Abe; three loveable if naïve miners.

– End –

### **Previews and events at BFI Southbank:**

#### **Gala Premiere + Q&A: All in Good Time**

UK 2012. Dir Nigel Cole. With Amara Karan, Reece Ritchie, Meera Syal, Harish Patel. 94min. Digital. 12A.

Courtesy of STUDIOCANAL

Based on Ayub Khan Din's (*East is East*) popular play *Rafta, Rafta* (in turn inspired by the 1960s Bill Naughton classic *All in Good Time*). Atul and Vina are celebrating their marriage with a honeymoon, in Bolton, with Atul's parents. As the weeks pass, Atul's father continually harangues and embarrasses his son, which proves no help to the young couple's honeymoon goal: to consummate their union.

**Cast and crew will join for a Q&A following this red carpet screening Tickets £13.75, concs £10.25 (Members pay £1.50 less)**

**Tue 8 May 18:15 NFT1**

#### **Preview: Café de Flore**

Canada-France 2011. Dir Jean-Marc Vallée. With Vanessa Paradis, Kevin Parent, Hélène Florent, Évelyne Brochu,

Marin Gerrier. 120min. Digital. EST. Courtesy of Momentum Pictures

Music plays a leading role in connecting the two stories of Antoine and Carole – a successful DJ and his ex-wife in present day Montreal – and of Jacqueline and Laurent, a devoted single mother and her son with Down Syndrome in Paris in 1969. Carole harbours hopes that Antoine will leave new girlfriend

Rose and return to her and their two daughters. Jacqueline dedicates herself to enriching Laurent's life, but finds her rituals are set off-balance when Laurent meets a young girl who also has Down Syndrome in his class. Memories and moments are woven together to create a powerful story of love

**Wed 9 May 20:40 NFT1**

#### **Restoration Premiere: This is Cinerama**

USA 1952. Dir Merian C Cooper. 115min

Projecting three simultaneous 35mm films on to a huge arced screen with a seven-channel soundtrack, the Cinerama process created a spectacular, immersive cinema experience. *This is Cinerama* was made to showcase its potential, and scenes from La Scala opera house, a rollercoaster ride and a bullfight, amongst others, enthralled 50s audiences. With the original now only viewable in three places in the world, David Strohmaier and Randy Gitsch will present the world premiere of their digital remastering of *This is Cinerama* with a simulated approximation of the real curved screen view Londoners enjoyed at the Casino Theatre in 1954.

**Wed 2 May 18:10 NFT3**

### **TV Preview: Tales of Television Centre**

BBC 2012. Dir Richard Marson. 90min

We are delighted to preview this new feature-length documentary telling the story of one of Britain's most iconic buildings as the BBC prepares to leave it. The story is told by both staff and stars, among them Sir David Frost, Sir David Attenborough, Dame Joan Bakewell, Jeremy Paxman, Sir Terry Wogan, Esther Rantzen, Angela Rippon, Biddy Baxter, Edward Barnes, Sarah Greene, Waris Hussein, Judith

Hann, Maggie Philbin, John Craven, Zoe and Johnny Ball and much loved faces from Pan's People (Babs, Dee Dee and Ruth) and *Dr Who* (Katy Manning, Louise Jameson and Janet Fielding). As well as a wealth of anecdotes and revelations, there is a rich variety of memorable, rarely seen (and in some cases newly recovered) archive material, including moments from studio recordings of classic programmes

like *Vanity Fair*, *Till Death Us Do Part*, *Top of the Pops* and *Dr Who*, plus a host of vintage behind-the-scenes footage offering a compelling glimpse into this wonderful and eccentric studio complex – home to so many of the most celebrated programmes in British TV history.

**Introduced by producer-director Richard Marson**

**Tue 15 May 18:10 NFT3**

### **TV Preview + Discussion: Faster, Higher, Stronger: The Ultimate Race**

BBC 2012. Dir Francis Welch. 60min

With the Games coming to London this summer, this new documentary tells the story of the 1500m – the Blue Riband event of any Olympics. *The Ultimate Race* reveals how the 1500m was the platform for the most famous chapter in British athletics history. In the 1980 and 1984 Games, three British runners – Sebastian Coe, Steve Ovett and Steve Cram – battled it out for Olympic Gold in dramatic races that gripped the nation. Part of the new BBC2 series *Faster, Higher, Stronger*, the film uses rarely-seen Olympic archive material to show how these British athletes are also part of a global tradition. Since the modern Games began in 1896 the 1500m has always attracted the most creative, innovative and exceptional athletes from unexpected corners of the world, from the 'Flying Finns' of the 1920s to today's African high-altitude champions. These runners devised groundbreaking training regimes, pushed human endurance to the limit, and emerged with an unquenchable will to win this most demanding Olympic event. Shot in Kenya, Morocco, Finland, Australia and the UK, the film features new interviews with Olympic 1500m champions including Sebastian Coe, Hicham El Guerrouj, Kipchoge Keino, Peter Rono, Peter Snell and Herb Elliott.

**The screening will be followed by onstage discussion with the filmmakers and some of Britain's past Olympians**

**Mon 14 May 18.15 NFT1**

### **The Roads To Freedom (Complete Screening)**

BBC 1970. Dir James Cellan Jones. With Michael Bryant, Daniel Massey, Georgia Brown, Rosemary Leach, Anthony Higgins. 13 x 45min

We are delighted to present a very rare complete screening of this remarkable series following the

immense interest generated by the screening of episodes 7,8 and 9 in the season dedicated to the director James Cellan Jones last year. Brilliantly adapted from the novels by Sartre, with writer David Turner managing to capture the complexity and subtle psychological and philosophical twists in the life of Mathieu (Michael Bryant) and his shifting feelings of commitment and alienation as Europe is plunged in to the chaos of war. Nominated for four BAFTAs (Best Writer, Best Production and Best Actor and Actress), the series remains one of the crowning achievements of British television drama.

Parts 1-3: *The Age of Reason*

**Sat 12 May 15:00 NFT2**

Parts 4-6: *The Age of Reason*

**Sat 12 May 17:50 NFT2**

Parts 7-9: *The Reprieve*

**Sun 13 May 15:15 NFT2**

Parts 10-11: *The Defeated*

**Sun 13 May 18:20 NFT2**

Parts 12-13: *The Defeated*

**Sun 13 May 20:40 NFT2**

**Tickets £5 (no concs) per screening; joint ticket available for all screenings £21.20, concs £13.75 (Members pay £1.50 less)**

### **Who Were We? The British Council Film Collection Unveiled**

During the 1940s, the British Council – the UK’s cultural relations body – was an enthusiastic commissioner of documentary films designed to promote an idea of Britain and ‘Britishness’. Over 125 films were produced as cultural propaganda to counteract anything the Nazis might throw out and to refute the idea that ours was a country stuck in the past, and they were seen by millions of viewers in far-flung locations until the late 60s. Now, as we approach the long Olympic summer with the UK’s

self-image in the world’s spotlight again, these fascinating films, preserved by the BFI National

Archive, are revealed once more in an evening of reminiscence, debate and entertainment.

[britishcouncil.org/film](http://britishcouncil.org/film)

**Thu 3 May 18:15 NFT1**



### **Performance**

UK 1970. Dir Donald Cammell & Nicolas Roeg. With Mick Jagger, James Fox, Anita Pallenberg, Johnny Shannon. 105min

Mick Jagger compels as the reclusive, decadent rock star whose Notting Hill home is crashed by a hard-nosed gangster on the run in one of the most notorious, inspired and experimental British feature films

ever made – as much about the fluid nature of identity and the very limits of sanity as gang crime and the increasingly illegal status of the late-60s counter-culture. Expecting a Stones equivalent to the Beatles’ *A Hard Day’s Night*, Warner Bros were wary of Roeg and Cammell’s visionary, sex- and drug- fuelled movie, only releasing a cut version after a two-year wait. The full, unexpurgated film screens tonight.

#### **+ Invocation of My Demon Brother**

USA 1969. Dir Kenneth Anger. 11min

Anger’s Crowleyan magick ritual film features Anton LaVey and a Moog soundtrack performed by Mick Jagger.

**Thu 17 May 20:45 NFT1**

### **Jan Švankmajer Shorts**

**The Last Trick** (1964) 11min + **Punch and Judy** (1966) 10min + **The Flat** (1968) 13min + **The Ossuary** (1970) 10min + **Dimensions of Dialogue** (1982) 14min + **The Death of Stalinism in Bohemia** (1990) 9min

A selection of Švankmajer’s astonishing surrealist shorts, employing stop-frame animation, puppets, claymation and live-action; foregrounding his irreverent sensibility, fixation on voracious appetites,

oral consumption and a playful jumbling of the animate with the inanimate. From a bemused guinea pig, teased by hand puppets in *Punch and Judy*, and Stalin’s statue laying on the autopsy slab in the satirical *Death of Stalinism in Bohemia*, to the frenetic animated invention of *Dimensions of Dialogue*.

**Introduced by artist- animator Let Me Feel Your Finger First.**  
**Tue 29 May 20:40 NFT2**

**African Odysseys: The Spook Who Sat by the Door**

USA 1973. Dir Ivan Dixon. With Lawrence Cook, Janet League, Paula Kelly. 102min

The once effectively banned cult action film in which CIA operative Dan Freeman returns to Chicago and prepares his brothers for revolution. This fanciful conceit is both a biting satire and a razor-edged provocation in response to the urgency of its times, and features a highly charged score from Herbie Hancock. This 'not to be missed' rarity screens with a new documentary putting into context an

extraordinary piece of film history: **Infiltrating Hollywood – The Rise and Fall of The Spook Who Sat by the Door** (USA 2011, dir Christine Acham & Clifford Ward, 57min).

**Tickets £5**

**Sat 26 May 14:00 NFT1**

**King's@BFI: Key Scholars in Film Studies:**

**Jean Gabin: Anatomy of a Myth**

The 'myth' of Jean Gabin is central to understanding popular French cinema. Remarkably, the much-loved star projected – with equal authenticity – both tragic working-class heroes in the 1930s in such classics as *Le Jour se lève*, and bourgeois criminal Godfathers after the war, from *Touchez-pas au*

*grisbi* onwards. In this illustrated talk, Ginette Vincendeau explores the continuities between the two parts of Gabin's career and the complexities in his projection of charismatic

'ordinariness'. Ginette Vincendeau is Professor in Film Studies at King's College London. She has written widely on popular French cinema Among her books are *Stars and Stardom in French Cinema* (2000), *Jean-Pierre Melville, An American in Paris* (2003) and *La Haine* (2005). She has just completed a book on Brigitte Bardot, and has curated this month's BFI Southbank season of Gabin films

**Wed 2 May 18:20 NFT2**



**Personal Best**

USA 1982. Dir Robert Towne. With Mariel Hemingway, Scott Glenn, Patrice Donnelly. 127min

In anticipation of this summer's Games, here's a rare chance to see Robert Towne's passionate story of a women's track team as they prepare for the 1980 Olympics. Praised for its realistic look at the world of female athletics and the pressures of being the best, at its heart is the complicated love affair between rising star Chris and her older, more experienced teammate Tory. *Personal Best* was at the vanguard of mainstream cinema in the early 80s in depicting a lesbian relationship, and although the film has its critics within the queer community, Chris and Tory's relationship is beautifully handled in the film.

**Tue 8 May 20:30 NFT3/ Sun 12 May 20:30 NFT2**

**Fragments: The Incomplete Films of Peter de Rome**

UK 2012. Dir Ethan Reid. 45min

Legendary gay porn pioneer Peter de Rome is revealed in a new film coinciding with the BFI DVD release of *The Erotic Films of Peter de Rome*. Using a Super-8 camera in the 1960s in New York he developed his own style of playful erotica inspired by classic Hollywood and the artful surrealism of

Cocteau. Plus three films by de Rome: pop art fantasy **Mumbo Jumbo** (1972, 16min); boy-meets-boy in **The Fire Island Kids** (1970, 14min); and **Encounter** (1971, 13min), in which a strange force draws men to an empty warehouse in Manhattan.

**This programme contains sexually explicit material. Over 18s only**  
**Thu 17 May 18:20 NFT2/ Sat 19 May 20:50 NFT2**

**Projecting the Archive: That's the Ticket**

UK 1947. Dir Redd Davis. With Sid Field, Hal Walters, Betty Lynne. 63min. **PG**

The first film vehicle for the hugely influential Sid Field provides ample evidence of the comic skills he honed over his years in the music hall. This tale of hapless cloakroom attendants who dream of catching spies gives Field ample scope for his distinctive blend of pratfalls, quickfire verbal wit and sheer lunacy, all delivered with impeccable timing.

**+ Strip! Strip!! Hooray!!!**

UK 1932. Dir Norman Lee. With Betty Norton, Ken Douglas, AE Raynor. 36min

Saucy fun aplenty in this top-notch cheeky comedy. Sir Hector, uptight protector of public decency, in top hat and monocle, infiltrates Sunville Hall – an outrageous private club for scantily-clad sunbathers. Cue juicy jazz boys and girls who sing, dance, and do physical jerks in their sun-suits for your delight.

**Introduced by an Archive curator**

**Fri 11 May 18:10 NFT1**

**Projecting the Archive: Traitor Spy**

UK 1940. Dir Walter Summers. With Bruce Cabot, Marta Labarr. 75min. **PG**

An exciting spy yarn set prior to the war in a Britain seemingly awash with Nazis. When a spy posing as a factory worker steals some top-secret blueprints, he holds out for more money from his Nazi paymasters. Not a wise move. Murder and mayhem ensue (plus a visit to a very seedy night club) as he

tries to keep one step ahead of both the Nazis and the British secret services. Plus **Dual Control** (UK 1932, dir Walter Summers, 20min): Aviators Jim Mollison and Amy Johnson as themselves in a flying drama.

**Introduced by John Oliver (BFI National Archive)**

**Thu 17 May 18:30 NFT1**

**Capital Tales: Hidden City**

UK 1987. Dir Stephen Poliakoff. With Charles Dance, Cassie Stuart, Richard E Grant, Bill Paterson. 108min. **15**

Has modern London ever looked more sinister? The search for an enigmatic piece of archive film takes a lecturer (Dance) and a young researcher (Stuart) into a capital crawling with secrets, wartime experiments and classified information. Poliakoff triumphs in showing the capital afresh and the journey takes us deep into a hidden, subterranean city of disused tram shelters underneath Holborn to the miles of tunnels winding below Oxford Street.

**Introduced by an Archive curator**

**Thu 24 May 18:10 NFT1**

**The Flipside: Battletruck aka Warlords of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

New Zealand 1981. Dir Harley Cokeliss. With Michael Beck, Annie McEnroe, James Wainwright. 92min. **15**

Hard-nosed vigilante Colonel Straker wreaks high-octane post-apocalyptic mayhem as he cruises the lawless wastelands of 21st-century New Zealand in his enormous armourplated road-beast, the Battletruck. Crushing everything in his path, he and his guffawing cronies terrorise all those who survived the 'Oil Wars'. Except for Hunter – a chiselled biker – who decides enough is enough. Can he turn scared, weary farmers into a viable fighting force and what will he do when he realises the new love in his life is actually Straker's daughter? This little seen dystopian cyberpunk romp is brim-full with 80s-style action, snappy lines and a superb, strident, maniacal villain.

**Introduced by Vic Pratt and Will Fowler (BFI National Archive). We look forward to welcoming director Harley Cokeliss for a Q&A session after the screening.**

**Wed 30 May 20:40 NFT1**

**Seniors' Free Matinee: A Private Function**

UK 1984. Dir Malcolm Mowbray. With Michael Palin, Maggie Smith, Denholm Elliott, Richard Griffiths, Alison Steadman. 94min. **15**

A hilariously vicious and deliciously tasteless satire, set in 1947 in a small town in England, and scripted by Alan Bennett. There's still post-war rationing of meat, and a black market thrives, but when a banquet is planned to celebrate the marriage of Princess Elizabeth, someone steals the pig.

**Screening is free to over-60s; otherwise tickets are available at normal matinee price**

**Mon 21 May 14:00 NFT1**

**UnLOCKed: Twelfth Night**

ITV 1959. Dir Roger Jenkins & Peter Robinson. 85min

Made by Associated Rediffusion Schools Programming, this production first aired across nine parts, bookended by detailed analysis of various aspects of the play. This version features the play's sections edited together for retransmission on American TV. The fine cast includes George A Cooper (as Sir Toby Belch) and such well known names as Peter Vaughan, Bernard Horsfall, Prunella Scales, Geoffrey Bayldon and Gillian Rayne.

**Wed 23 May 18:15 NFT2**



**Winstanley**

UK 1976 Dir Kevin Brownlow. With Miles Halliwell, Jerome Willis, Terry Higgins, Phil Oliver. 95min.

**PG**

Based on David Caute's novel *Comrade Jacob*, Kevin Brownlow and Andrew Mollo's film follows the historical movement of the Diggers, who in 1649, created a settlement at St George's Hill, Surrey, under the leadership of Gerald Winstanley. Made for a limited budget with a largely non-professional cast,

*Winstanley* is an ambitious, austere beautiful account of a chapter from the English revolution, charting the rise and dissolution of the Diggers' dream, destroyed by human malice and the intransigence of nature.

**Wed 2 May 20:50 NFT3\*/ Tue 15 May 20:45 NFT2**

**\*Introduced by Kevin Brownlow**

**The Big Knife**

USA 1955. Dir Robert Aldrich. With Rod Steiger, Jack Palance, Ida Lupino, Wendell Corey. 111min. **PG**

Adapted by James Poe from the Clifford Odets play, *The Big Knife* is an intense chamber piece centring

on the crisis in the life of flawed movie idol Charles Castle (Jack Palance). An all-out attack on the Hollywood system and the climate of fearful conformity in mid-50s America, *The Big Knife* is one of the great Hollywood-insider movies, dominated by Rod Steiger's performance as the monstrous and corrupt studio boss, Stanley Hoff.

**Sun 6 May 20:40 NFT2/ Mon 7 May 18:10 NFT2\***

**\*Introduced by Dominic Power**

**Duel in the Sun**

USA 1946. Dir King Vidor. With Jennifer Jones, Gregory Peck, Joseph Cotten. 135min. **PG**

David O Selznick's grand folly of a western (nicknamed 'Lust in the Dust' by critics) stars Jennifer Jones as Pearl Chavez, a half-breed who becomes caught between warring brothers

Gregory Peck and Joseph Cotten. Despite its troubled production history (with uncredited direction from Josef von Sternberg, William Dieterle and William Cameron Menzies) and a difficult reception from the censors,

*Duel in the Sun* stands as an unclassifiable, delirious melodrama.

**Thu 3 May 20:20 NFT2/ Mon 7 May 15:30 NFT2/ Tue 8 May 18:10 NFT2\***

**\*Introduced by Richard Combs**

### **8½ /Otto e mezzo**

Italy-France 1963 Dir Federico Fellini. With Marcello Mastroianni, Claudia Cardinale, Anouk Aimée. 138min. EST. **15**

After the huge success of *La Dolce Vita*, expectations were high for Fellini's next film. His answer was a semiautobiographical film about a Fellini-like director on the verge of a nervous breakdown, trying to deal with his own creative block while fending off the attentions of his producer, screenwriter, wife and mistress. Fellini described the film as being 'sincere to the point of being indecent'.

**Sun 13 May 20:20 NFT1/ Mon 14 May 18:10 NFT2\*/ Sat 19 May 18:00 NFT2**

**\*Introduced by Philip Kemp**

### **The Tree of Life**

USA 2011. Dir Terrence Malick. With Brad Pitt, Jessica Chastain, Sean Penn. 138min. Digital. **12A**

*The Tree of Life* is Terrence Malick's most uncompromisingly ambitious film to date. The basic plot description – corporate executive in crisis relives his Texas childhood – cannot capture the film's scope. With its glimpses of pre-history and the cosmos, *The Tree of Life* is a unique example of visionary cinema made by a filmmaker unafraid to use cinema to look at the central mysteries of existence.

**Sun 20 May 20:20 NFT2/ Mon 21 May 18:10 NFT3\*/ Thu 24 May 20:20 NFT1/ Fri 25 May 20:20 NFT2**

**\*Introduced by Dominic Power**

### **In the Realm of the Senses/ Ai no corrida**

Japan-France 1976. Dir Nagisa Oshima. With Eiko Matsuda, Tatsuya Fuji. 108min. EST

Oshima's unparalleled portrayal of erotic obsession and control is set in 1936 as Japan prepares for war;

a former prostitute becomes involved in an intense all-consuming affair with her employer's husband. Based on actual events, the film transcends pornography to become a study of the creative and destructive power of eroticism and the links between sex and death in Japanese society.

**Sun 27 May 20:40 NFT2/ Mon 28 May 18:10 NFT2\*/ Thu 31 May 20:40 NFT2**

**\*Introduced by Isolde Standish**



### **Singalong Oliver!**

As part of Southbank Centre's weekend-long Chorus festival, celebrating the transformative power

of singing together, become part of a 2,000-voice choir to sing-along to this exuberant film version of Lionel Bart's brilliant musical theatre re-imagining of *Oliver Twist*. Stuffed with classic songs – including 'Consider Yourself', 'Where is Love?', 'Food Glorious Food' and 'As Long As He Needs Me' – this unique screening of the massively popular film includes a vocal warm-up led by top voice coach Mary King, prizes for the best fancy dress, and pop-up singing urchins. A multiple Oscar-winner, *Oliver!* has, for some reason, not been properly recognised for what it is – the last great achievement of Carol Reed's outstanding canon of films, to rank alongside *Odd Man Out* and *The Third Man*. In the bicentenary year of Charles Dickens' birth,

and the wake of our three-month BFI Southbank season, re-visit this timeless classic in an unforgettably engaging way!

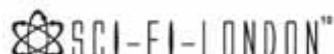
**Singalong Oliver! is produced by Southbank Centre in association with the BFI Tickets £15, concs £7.50**

Pre-screening singing workshops: Brush up your renditions of the Oliver! songs at a Family Workshop at 16:00 earlier the same day, and at evening Choral Clubs (30 April, 1 & 2 May).

**For further details and booking: [southbankcentre.co.uk](http://southbankcentre.co.uk) 0844 847 9910**

**Sat 5 May 19:00 Royal Festival Hall**

SCI-FI-LONDON, the UK's leading genre film festival, holds its 11th edition at BFI Southbank and the Apollo Piccadilly from 1-7 May 2012. Heralding the selection of fantastic features, shorts and documentary films at the BFI, Sunday April 29th will see the annual SCI-FILONDON Fantastic Costume Parade bring a collection of the finest movie-and TV-related costumes to the venue. Full details of the festival can be found on [sci-fi-london.com](http://sci-fi-london.com) and [facebook.com/scifi.london](https://www.facebook.com/scifi.london) as well as via the festival's free smartphone 'app', which also features a selection of short films and old-time radio shows.



### **World Premiere: True Love**

USA-Italy 2012. Dir Enrico Clerico Nasino. With Ellen Hollman, John Brotherton. 100min  
Written by 'Fabio & Fabio' (Fabio Guaglione and Fabio Resinaro), the writer-director team behind the hit sci-fi short *Afterville*. Kate and Jack wake from a deep sleep after their wedding, each alone in a sealed room with only images projected on the walls and a monitor with two buttons: a 'yes' and a 'no'. Surveillance films showing their life together appear on the wall, while the monitor asks questions, each more strange and terrifying than the last. A bizarre test of their relationship is underway, and the secrets revealed could not just destroy their love, but threaten their very lives

**Fri 4 May 20:45 NFT1**

### **Great Writers in Short Form**

It is said that science fiction goes back to the ancient Greeks, with stories of beings on the moon and beyond. SF literature is now a well-respected genre and many classic feature films were inspired by great literary works. Here, we present an international programme of science-fiction short films, based on short stories by some of the world's great science-fiction authors including George Orwell, Kurt Vonnegut, Stanislaw Lem, Theodore Sturgeon and Ray Bradbury.

**Presented in association with ICON TLV**

**Sat 5 May 15:40 NFT3**

### **Documentary Preview: The Mechanical Bride**

USA-Germany-Japan-UK 2012. Dir Allison de Fren. With Julie Newmar. 76min

The desire to bring the perfect, artificial woman to life is as old as Pygmalion, but how close is it to

becoming a reality? This provocative and eye-opening documentary journeys from the outer limits of fantasy to the state-of-the-art reality of artificial companions – from life-sized silicone love dolls to humanoid robots. We meet the men – builders, animators, and lovers – who keep alive the dream of artificial companionship. Narrated by screen icon and former television android Julie Newmar

**Sat 5 May 18:10 NFT3**

### **Preview + Q&A: Dimensions**

UK 2011. Dir Sloane U'Ren. With Henry Lloyd-Hughes, Camilla Rutherford, Patrick Godfrey. 99min

In 1920s Cambridge, Stephen has his world turned upside down when he meets a charismatic and inspirational professor who demonstrates to Stephen and his friends what life would be

like if they were merely one- or twodimensional beings. He then proceeds to explain that by manipulating other dimensions, time travel may actually be possible. A tragic accident leads Stephen to dedicate himself to turning the Professor's theories of time travel into reality. Think Merchant-Ivory Time Travel: a remarkable period drama and great sci-fi!

**Sat 5 May 20:20 NFT3**

### **Music Video Shorts**

Each year, the festival receives a few submissions that are music videos rather than narrative fiction, and each year we pass them by. This year we decided to add a new category to the event and put out an open call for music videos with a sci-fi and fantasy theme. We had some amazing entries, a real mix of style in both the music and technique. Join us for an eclectic mix of the best. Video artists include Casey Raymond and Craig Murray. Featuring music by The Dogbones, Turbowolf, John Grant and many more.

**Sun 6 May 16:00 NFT2**

### **Documentary Preview + Q&A: Sense of Scale**

USA 2011. Dir Berton Pierce. 106min

Some of the most successful films in the world rely on the smallest detail, and model-makers and visual-effects artists help to create the amazing effects. However, with many new 'blockbusters' boasting computergenerated imagery and utilising fewer models and miniatures, VFX artist

Berton Pierce asks whether this is a dying art, or will movies such as Duncan Jones' *Moon* help keep these skills in demand? The art of models and miniatures, featuring behindthe-scenes footage and classic models, as well as interviews with the artists themselves.

**Sun 6 May 18:00 NFT3**

### **BFI Future Film in association with SCI-FI-LONDON presents: To the Cinema and Beyond!**

Ever wanted to make your own sci-fi film but thought it was only possible with a massive budget? Well, think again. Come and be inspired by some of SCI-FI LONDON's top talent at our exclusive Q+A, check out short sci-fi movies made by other young filmmakers, and learn how you can afford to create your own sci-fi VFX on a shoestring budget.

**Age range 15-25 Tickets are just £3 or bring a mate and you'll both get in for a fiver – bargain!**

**Sat 5 May 12:00 NFT3**

### **Preview: Tales of the Night in 3D/ Les Contes de la Nuit**

France 2011. Dir Michel Ocelot. 84min. Courtesy of Soda Pictures.

In a rundown cinema, a group gather each night to tell and act out six stories and create some magic. These tales include *The Werewolf*, in which being betrothed to the wrong princess might lead to extreme danger for a young man with a terrible curse, and *The Boy Who Never Lied*, in which two kings wager on whether a truthful boy will live up to his reputation. Michel Ocelot is the master of contemporary French animated cinema and *Tales of the Night* combines classic silhouette animation with new 3D techniques. It's an intoxicating combination of sharp dialogue, dry sense of humour and enchanting pleasure.

**Sun 13 May 13:30 NFT1**

### **Tales of the Night Funday Workshop**

Come along to our magical *Tales of the Night* workshop and learn the art of classic silhouette animation.

Create your own stories and legends inspired by the mysteries of the night. Let your imagination fly free to invent your own characters and send them off on amazing adventures. Once you have created your story, our practitioners will help you tell it using classic

silhouette animation techniques. With the usual arts and crafts tables, competitions and prizes – don't waste any time in bed this Sunday morning  
– wake up and come to our *Tales of the Night* extravaganza.

**Free to ticket-holders for the Funday Screening**

**Sun 13 May 11:30 Foyer**

### **PRESS CONTACTS:**

#### **BFI Southbank:**

Caroline Jones / Tim Mosley

Tel: 020 7957 8986 / 8918 or email: [caroline.jones@bfi.org.uk](mailto:caroline.jones@bfi.org.uk) / [tim.mosley@bfi.org.uk](mailto:tim.mosley@bfi.org.uk)

#### **BFI IMAX/DVD:**

Jill Reading

Tel 020 7957 4759 or email: [jill.reading@bfi.org.uk](mailto:jill.reading@bfi.org.uk)

#### **Head of Press and PR, BFI**

Judy Wells

Tel: 020 7957 8919 or email: [judy.wells@bfi.org.uk](mailto:judy.wells@bfi.org.uk)

### **About the BFI**

The BFI is the nation's cultural organisation for film, keeping the breadth of voices in moving image culture alive and known. Through its venues, festivals, film releases and online, the BFI inspires people to understand and enjoy film culture, ensuring that everyone in the UK can see the broadest range and choice of films, otherwise not provided by commercial cinema. The BFI reaches an audience of over 7.5 million in the UK every year.

### **Booking information**

#### **About the BFI**

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are 10.00, concs £6.75 Members pay £1.50 less on any ticket. Website [www.bfi.org.uk/southbank](http://www.bfi.org.uk/southbank)

**Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment**

#### **BFI Filmstore**

The BFI Filmstore is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

### **The benugo bar & kitchen**

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

**\*\*\* PICTURE DESK \*\*\***

**A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI / BFI Southbank /May 2012**